

**Main points for education needing to change:**

- **Unease** socially and politically with education
  - Education system resistant to change – last 15 years rapid social and economic changes but the education system has not changed at the pace of the world around them.
- **Disconnection** between education and economy
- Unprecedented levels of **disengagement**.
  - Physical – not at school – mostly Maori
  - Virtual – at school but not going to achieve a qualification
  - Unintended – package of marginal success but don't go anywhere – students who fail first year of post secondary.
- **NEET** (15-19)- not in employment or education
  - 1980's privatising railway, post etc took away govt. supported apprenticeships. Limited opportunities for apprenticeships at present.
  - Unskilled jobs are disappearing due to factories going overseas.

\*These problems of disengagement are also in the UK, USA, Can, Aust and starting to show in Korea and Japan.

**What are the challenges in education?**

- **Purpose** – will need to find a renewed purpose – more focus (primary – basic skills, secondary – vocational)
- **Readiness** – footprints – are children ready to learn at the various stages – ECE, Primary, and Secondary – if ready progress is good, if not ready progress is poor.
  - **The teaching learning Triad** – Quality, Readiness, Progress
- Schools should not be organised as clearly on an **age cohort basis**.
- Language is at the heart of learning and diversity
  - Bilingual brains are best, being bilingual is normal, being English is not.
  - Schools will need to be multilingual in every dimension of their operation.

*'Weaken my language, you weaken me. Strengthen my language and I am strong.'*

- Schools will not be organised by sectors (ECE, primary, secondary, tertiary) they will have outlived their purpose.
- **Education Programmes** will be based on what the student needs to know for them to achieve.
- **Community connection** – needs to develop.

MIT – NZ's first tertiary high school, the programmes is based on what the student needs to know for them to achieve. The students are enrolled in their own school and MIT, the classes are no age related but instead they are needs based.

*Simply by sailing in a new direction you could enlarge the world. Curnow*

## Dr Stuart Middleton - Auckland New Zealand (Wednesday Morning Keynote)

PhD, MA, AEd(Lond.), DipEd, DipSLT, DipTchg



Director

External Relations

Manukau Institute of Technology

Dr Stuart Middleton taught English in several Manukau City secondary schools before becoming a teacher educator at the then Auckland College of Education. In 1990 he became Principal of Aorere College, a large multicultural secondary school in Manukau. He returned to the Auckland College of Education to undertake a variety of roles before taking up his present position as Director, External Relations at Manukau Institute of Technology in 2002.

Stuart Middleton has been awarded a Commonwealth Relations Trust Fellowship to the University of London, several QANTAS Media Awards as New Zealand's best social issues columnist. He has written a weekly column in NZ Education Review for the past ten years. In 2007 he won a Fulbright New Century Scholars Award and joined an international group of scholars studying equity and access in higher education. In 2007 he undertook a period as a Visiting Scholar at the University of California: Berkeley.

He is a Life Member of the NZ Assn for the Teaching of English and active in a variety of community organisations in Manukau including the City of Manukau Education Trust, the Counties Manukau Regional Sports Trust and the Otara Economic Development Trust. He has recently been appointed Chair of the Board of Directors of Manukau Leisure Services Ltd, a council controlled organisation that provides all leisure facilities and services throughout the city.

**Title:** School looks good but is it engaging?

**Abstract:** We focus much of our energy as educators on continually improving schools. But underneath this veneer there is a hidden issue, one that challenges the ways we work and has the potential to undermine any gains that we make. Stuart Middleton will outline what is known about disengagement and the reasons for this phenomenon which characterises western education systems. He will also outline potential responses to it and outline in more detail the development of New Zealand's first Tertiary High School at Manukau Institute of Technology. He will show the extent to which all levels of the education system have a role to play in re-positioning the education system in a changing world with new purposes and different roles for educators.

Jane Clarke